



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5536

LCO No. 2327



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Except as provided in
2 subsection (e) of this section, on and after October 1, 2014, each
3 psychologist licensed in accordance with chapter 383 of the general
4 statutes shall complete a minimum of ten hours of continuing
5 education during each registration period. For purposes of this section,
6 "registration period" means the twelve-month period for which a
7 licensee has been renewed in accordance with the provisions of section
8 19a-88b of the general statutes and is current and valid.

9 (b) Qualifying continuing education activities shall be related to the
10 practice of psychology and shall include courses, seminars, workshops,
11 conferences and postdoctoral institutes offered or approved by: (1) The
12 American Psychological Association; (2) a regionally accredited
13 institution of higher education graduate program; (3) a state or
14 regional psychological association; (4) a postdoctoral training center;
15 (5) a nationally recognized provider of continuing education seminars;

16 or (6) a behavioral science organization that is professionally or
17 scientifically recognized. Not more than five continuing education
18 units shall be completed via the Internet, distance learning or home
19 study. Qualifying continuing education activities may include a
20 licensee's presentation of an original paper, essay or research-based
21 poster relating to the practice of psychology or a formal lecture in
22 psychology at a professional conference or participation in a panel
23 presentation before a group of psychology professionals, provided not
24 more than five continuing education units shall be completed by such
25 activities. A licensee who has earned a diplomate from the American
26 Board of Professional Psychology or American Board of Psychological
27 Hypnosis during the registration period may substitute credits toward
28 the diplomate for continuing education requirements for such period.
29 For purposes of this section "continuing education unit" means fifty to
30 sixty minutes of participation in accredited continuing professional
31 education.

32 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from a
33 provider of continuing education for all continuing education activities
34 that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate for not
35 less than three years after the license renewal date for which the
36 continuing education activity was completed. Upon the request of the
37 Commissioner of Public Health a licensee shall submit such certificate
38 to the Department of Public Health. A licensee who fails to comply
39 with the continuing education requirements prescribed in this section
40 may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-192 of the
41 general statutes.

42 (d) A licensee who holds a professional educator certificate that is
43 endorsed for school psychologist or counseling psychologist issued by
44 the State Board of Education pursuant to chapter 166 of the general
45 statutes may substitute professional development activities described
46 in section 10-148a of the general statutes for continuing education
47 activities required in accordance with this section.

48 (e) A licensee applying for license renewal for the first time shall be
49 exempt from the continuing education requirements under subsection
50 (a) of this section. In individual cases involving medical disability or
51 illness, the Commissioner of Public Health may grant a waiver of the
52 continuing education requirements or an extension of time within
53 which to fulfill the continuing education requirements of this section to
54 any licensee, provided the licensee submits to the department an
55 application for waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the
56 commissioner, along with a certification by a licensed physician of the
57 disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required
58 by the commissioner. The commissioner may grant a waiver or
59 extension for a period not to exceed one registration period, except the
60 commissioner may grant additional waivers or extensions if the
61 medical disability or illness upon which a waiver or extension is
62 granted continues beyond the period of the waiver or extension and
63 the licensee applies for an additional waiver or extension. The
64 commissioner may grant a waiver of the continuing education
65 requirements to a licensee who is not engaged in active professional
66 practice, in any form, during a registration period, provided the
67 licensee submits a notarized application on a form prescribed by the
68 commissioner prior to the end of the registration period. A licensee
69 who is granted a waiver under the provisions of this subsection may
70 not engage in professional practice until the licensee has met the
71 continuing education requirements of this section.

72 (f) Any licensee granted a waiver of the continuing education
73 requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this
74 section shall be required to complete five hours of continuing
75 education not later than six months after the date on which such
76 licensee returned to active practice. In addition, such licensee shall
77 comply with the certificate of completion requirements prescribed in
78 subsection (c) of this section.

79 (g) Any licensee whose license has become void and who applies to
80 the department for reinstatement of such license pursuant to section

81 19a-88b of the general statutes, shall submit with such application
82 evidence documenting that such applicant has successfully completed
83 five hours of continuing education within the one-year period
84 immediately preceding the date of application for reinstatement.

85 (h) The commissioner may accept continuing education activities
86 completed by a licensee in another state or country to meet the
87 requirements of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require continuing education for psychologists.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]